

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 20 through 26 with the following amended paragraph:

A conventional grammar ~~[[are]]~~ is limited in that ~~it~~ it is typically difficult to consistently specify and maintain large grammars. The present invention applies more general syntactic templates to an ontological model thus allowing more consistent generation across the grammar. Because the approach of the invention results in fewer templates, maintenance is easier than in a conventional grammar. Also, the syntactic templates of the present invention are more abstract in nature, and thus changes to the syntactic templates propagate throughout the generated grammar.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 24 through page 7, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 2 shows the components of a speech center system 20 configured according to the present invention. Fig. 2 also illustrates external applications 26 that communicate with the speech center 20, a speech engine 22, and an active ~~accessability~~ accessibility module 24. The speech center 20, speech engine 22, active ~~accessability~~ accessibility module 24, and external applications 26, in one aspect of the invention, may be hosted on one computer system 10. In another embodiment, one or more of the external applications 26 may be hosted and executed by a different digital processor 12 than the digital processor 12 that hosts the speech center 20. Generally, the speech center 20 (and its individual components) may be implemented as hardware or software. The speech center 20 includes a conversation manager 28, speech engine interface 30, environmental interface 32, external application interface 34, task manager 36, script engine 38, GUI manager 40, and application ~~module~~ model interface 42.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 16-21 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 3, the lexicon 66 implements a dictionary of all the words known to the speech center system 20. The lexicon provides synonyms and parts of speech information for elements of the ontological description for the domain model. The lexicon 66 links each word to all the information known about that word, including ontology classes (e.g., as part of the ontology 64) that it may belong to, and the various syntactic forms that the word might take.

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 18-27 with the following amended paragraph:

In step 116, the dialog ~~manger~~ manager 56 places the response output in a queue of response outputs. For example, the queue contains response outputs accumulated over time, particularly if the user has been away from the computer for a time. In step 118, the dialog manager 56 manages a dialog between the user and the computer system 10 to provide the response output from the queue to the user at an appropriate time, and in a manner that is sensitive to the user's requests (e.g., not to receive a response output for a period of time). In step 120, after the dialog manger 56 has determined that the user should receive the response output, the speech engine 22 converts the response output to an audio output that can be provided to the user through a speaker of the computer system 10.